

How to Become a Child of God.

J. J. Crossley

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His name."—JOHN 1:12.

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HOW TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD.

I write these pages for three different persons :
1. The Christian. 2. The neglecter. 3. The
er.

1. Are you now a Christian?

member then, that the Lord designs to use
in winning others. Have you ever won
body for Christ? Have you sought to do

Having found Christ, follow the example
Andrew and Philip; tell it, and invite others,
God will bless you and make you a bless-
(John i. 4c-46).

trust this tract may help you in directing
ers, and also confirm you in the faith.

Are you still Neglecting to Receive Christ?

it be possible, after all the Lord has done
you, that you are not yet a Christian, and still
hesitating to decide to become one?

Let me ask, "Do you ever intend to be a
Christian?" You answer, "Yes." Will you be-
fore you sleep, seek to receive Christ? Do you
say, "*I am not decided yet.*" Will you say this

to the Lord? Imagine you saying, "*Lord, is my purpose to accept Thee some time, but I don't intend to do so just now.*"

I know you would not say that.

Let me assure you, that if you to-night rise from your knees without deciding to seek to receive Christ, or if you do not even "say your prayers," but treat the Lord with silent contempt, as Christ reads your heart, He hears you say to Him, "*I am for the present resolved not to receive Thee.*" Holy Spirit impress this thought. Now as you would not say this to the Lord with your *lips*, will you *continue* to say it to Him with your heart?

Why will you longer delay? Jesus loves you. He died for you. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Hark, he calls you! Sleep not, till you can say, "Lord, I will, I do accept Thee now."

3. Are you desirous of becoming a Christian?

I want particularly to speak to you. If you will read aloud it will help you to make what I say personal.

The passage of Scripture that I have found to help more sincere inquirers than any other I have used, is where the Lord says: "*As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His Name* (John i. 12, R.V.). It would satisfy you to *know* that you are His child.

How may you know this?

Look at the verse already quoted, and you will see that it is by *receiving Christ* as your present, personal Saviour from sin.

How is this to be done?

There is no hindrance on the part of Christ, and there need be no hindrance with you. The only place that there can be a hindrance is in your Faith or your Will.

Do you *believe* that Christ is *able* and *willing* to save you now? If so, there is no hindrance in your *faith*. Are you *willing* now to accept Christ as your Saviour from sin? It is in the will where the hindrance usually lies. The impenitent are unwilling. Do you say, "I am willing?" Then there is no hindrance in your *will*, and there being no hindrance in your faith, there

Cannot be a hindrance any place else.

I know the mistake you will be sure to make: you will try to FEEL that Christ is your Saviour before you *receive* Him. I did this, and ninety-nine out of a hundred do the same thing.

Do you ask, "Is there no feeling about it, and will I not know when I am saved?"

Yes, you will feel and *know when you receive Christ*, but not before. I feel that I have this testament which I hold in my hand, in fact I know I have it; but you do not feel that you have it, and you would not try to do so before you

receive it. Now, just as you cannot feel and know that the book is yours before you receive it, so you cannot feel and know that Christ is your Saviour before you receive Him.

There is one way to feel that the book is yours, namely, by receiving it ; so there is but

One way to feel that Christ is your Saviour,
that is, by receiving Him. To try to feel that He is your Saviour before you receive Him, is as if I offered you the book, and, instead of receiving it, you begin and continue to look in your hands and try to see and feel it there.

You would not think of doing this. So do not for another moment try to feel that Christ is your Saviour *before you receive Him*.

In a Western town, while thus speaking to

Lawyer R—,

he said, "I see now that I have been making this mistake for the last ten years."

I replied, "You might for the next ten years try to feel that you have this testament, but you cannot unless you receive it, so you might for the next *twenty* years try to feel that Jesus is your Saviour, but

You cannot before you receive Him."

He answered, "Certainly I cannot." "But you can *receive* Him, can you not?" "Yes, I believe I can." "*Do you?*" He paused for a moment,

and then said, "I do now receive Him, I believe His Word, I am the child of God at last."

I want to say with gratitude to God, that hundreds of others of all ages and characters, have received Christ, and so become the children of God, as I have, in homes and stores, on the street and in meetings, by the help of the Spirit, been thus explaining and enforcing the teachings of this verse.

What, then, is to hinder you from being saved?

Remember, you cannot feel that Christ is your Saviour before you receive Him, but you can receive Him. Do you now? *Pause here a moment.* Now, as you think, not of self and feelings, but of Christ and His gracious promise, from the heart say, "I am willing to receive Thee; I believe Thou art able and willing to save me now; I willingly, trustingly receive Thee as my present Saviour."

Do you now receive Him? If so, in view of the assurance of the Word of God, that those who receive Him are given the privilege of becoming the children of God,

Would it be Presumption,

or too much for you, confidently to say, "I am the child of God?"

Do you say, "I hope I am," or "I would like to say I am," or "It seems too much for me to say that I am?" *If you receive Christ, any*

such answer is dishonoring to God, as it implies a doubt of the truth of His Word.

Do not be thinking about the experience you have imagined or heard others speak about.

The transformation differs with persons according to their previous life and character. You cannot be saved from swearing, drinking, scepticism, or bitter enmity against God and the good, unless you have been guilty of these sins.

With some who have been what people call "great sinners," it necessarily involves a great transformation, or change of heart and life, but with others the change is, certainly, not so marked, *though just as real*.

At Belleville, one who had lived a pure, moral life, and had just received Christ, but hesitated to claim her privilege as a child of God, said,

"I thought there would be a great change."

I replied, "Is it not a great change to have the pardon and peace of God, and be changed from a servant of Satan to a child of God?" She answered, "It is indeed a great change, but I had been overlooking that."

Remember, the great thing necessary for you is to *receive Christ as your Saviour*, and know the relationship of a child of God, and then any other necessary change of heart and life will be affected.

“It seems too much to claim.”

So said a lady to me in Winnipeg. Believing that she was *trusting the Lord*, but *doubting herself*, I asked, “Is it too much to claim that you are Mrs. W.?”

With a smile, she replied, “Certainly not.” I said, “What right have you to claim that you are the wife of Mr. W.? Is it not (1) because you *know* you received him; (2) he said, ‘I take thee,’ and you believed him, and (3) that you accepted as true when the minister, in the name of the Trinity, pronounced you man and wife. Now Jesus says concerning His own, ‘Ye are the bride, I am the Bridegroom.’ You say that (1) you know you receive Christ as your Saviour; then (2) He replies, ‘I will in no wise cast out,’ ‘I will receive you;’ and (3) the inspired Word of God assures you, ‘As many as received Him, to them gave He power, or privilege, to become the children of God.’ Have you any more reason to believe, or right to call yourself Mrs. W. than you have to say, without a doubt, that you are the child of God, or, in other words, that you are a Christian?”

Her face lighted up, as she replied, “I do not know that I have. I wish I had heard it put that way twenty years ago, but I see it clearly now. I believe I am His child.”

Many church members and new converts, by this comparison, have been helped into clear

light. Are you in a similar position to this lady? See that the grounds of your assurance are the *consciousness* of receiving Christ, and the sure *Word of God*.

Do you say, "I cannot tell the time when I received Christ." Do not think of that.

The great question for you to consider is, not when did I receive Christ, but, do I trust Him *now* as my Saviour. If you know you do, claim your adoption as a child of God, and let it be known; but if you have not hitherto received Him, you may do so now.

How is it with you?

If you have not received Him, do not wait for any special meeting, or to still further speak to any person, but now, as you sit or kneel, think of Christ and of receiving Him, and say from the heart: "I am willing to receive Christ as my Saviour. *I do now receive Him.* I stand on promised ground, and so believing the word of the Lord, it would be presumptuous for me to doubt, I cannot doubt, but with full assurance of faith, though unworthy, by grace I claim

I am the child of God."

Now, do not expect to hold this position without your faith being assailed. Christ, as a man, was *tempted to doubt His own divinity*, as Satan said, "If Thou be the Son of God," etc. How did He meet the temptation? He answered,

"It is written," etc. Thus He met Satan's lie with God's truth, and thus

Vanquished the tempter.

So, when you may be tempted to doubt your adoption as a child of God, do not confound the temptation to 'doubt with doubt, but resist it with the sure Word of God, as you say, "It is written, 'as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the children of God.' I know I receive Him, I believe His Word, I am His child."

REMEMBER, this is a covenant you make with the Lord to be His for ever. Let no thought of an experiment for a few weeks or months enter your mind, but resolve, "*God helping me*, this covenant shall be for time and eternity." If you ever do or say what you see to be wrong, remember the covenant, ask forgiveness, take a fresh start, seek more grace; so shall you be

"Kept by the power of God through faith unto Salvation."

Your sincere Friend,

H. T. CROSSLEY.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.,

November 19th, 1891.

COVENANT

I Believe I have accepted CHRIST to be my SAVIOUR and LORD, and I shall endeavor, as a CHILD OF GOD, by HIS GRACE, for the remainder of my life, in all things to please Him.

“WHOSE I AM, AND WHOM I SERVE.”

Date

Name

“I will make an everlasting covenant with you.”—ISA. 55. 3.

“Thou shouldst enter into covenant with the Lord thy God.”—DEUT. 29. 12.

“Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant.”—JER. 50. 5.

Remember

WHAT CHRIST IS ABLE TO DO FOR YOU.

1. He is able to answer your prayers:

"Unto Him that is **able** to do exceeding abundantly above all that we **ask** or **think**."—EPH. 3. 20.

2. He is able to fully save you:

"He is **able** also to **save** them to the **uttermost** that come unto God by Him."—HEB. 7. 25.

3. He is able to strengthen you when tempted:

"For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is **able** to succor them that are tempted."—HEB. 2. 18.

4. He is able to hold you up and establish you:

"He shall be holden up: for God is **able** to make him stand."—ROM. 14. 4.

5. He is able to keep you to the end:

"I am persuaded that He is **able** to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."—2 TIM. 1. 12.

6. He is able to make you a successful worker:

"God is **able** to make all grace abound toward you, that ye . . . may abound to every good work."—2 COR. 9. 8.

7. He is able to bring you to heaven:

"Unto Him that is **able** to keep you from falling, and to present you **faultless** before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."—JUDE 24.